

REMARKS

The Office Action of October 29, 2008 has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. Claims 2, 4, and 6 have been cancelled herewith. New claims 18-21 have been added to the application and claims 1, 9, 11, and 13 are amended by the present Amendment. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 5, and 7-21 are currently pending in this application, and claims 1, 9, and 13 are in independent form.

The undersigned wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended in the telephone interview with Patricia A. Olosky on January 26, 2009, wherein proposed claim language for claims 1, 9 and 13 was informally discussed in light of U.S. Patent No. 5,256,123 to Reinbolt (hereinafter, "Reinbolt"). As was correctly stated in the Interview Summary of January 28, 2009, the Examiner indicated that upon entry of a formal amendment, a new search of the prior art would be performed.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejections

Claims 1-17 stand rejected for asserted anticipation under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Reinbolt. After more clearly characterizing the technical features of amended independent claims 1, 9 and 13 and clarifying the indefinite issues therein, where those added technical features are supported by Figs. 3(A) to 3(E) and the relevant descriptions thereof in Paragraphs [0035] to [0036] of the present specification, reconsideration of these claim rejections is respectfully requested. The technical features of claims 2, 4, 6 and 11 are respectively incorporated into claims 1 and 9, and claims 2, 4, and 6 are cancelled without prejudice. In addition, claims 18 to 21 are newly added where the technical features thereof are supported by Figs. 3(A) to 3(E) and the descriptions in Paragraphs [0035] and [0036] of the present specification. Accordingly, all of the amended and newly added claims are fully supported by the specification of the present invention as originally filed, and do not contain any new matter. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims are patentable over Reinbolt and in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein.

Reinbolt's invention relates to a "female abdominal exercise device". For achieving the purpose of "exercise", Reinbolt provides a closed and adjustable pressure system in which adequate pressure is maintained by filling fluids therein and the pressure can be decreased by draining the fluids therefrom. As shown in Figs. 1 to 3 and described in Col.

3, Line 27 to Col. 4, Line 43 of Reinbolt's specification, the exercise device includes an extendable and expandable member 50 being used for containing the fluids and completely packaging a first internal portion 100 and a second internal portion 120 therein for forming the closed pressure system. The internal portions 100 and 120 are connected and partitioned off by an intermediate wall 140 having two orifices 160 and 180 through which the fluids can be communicated between the internal portions 100 and 120. Based on the configuration of Reinbolt's exercise device, it is impossible for the internal portions 100 and 120 and the intermediate wall 140 to be separated from each other in the vagina. In other words, the configuration, including the member 50, the internal portions 100 and 120, and the intermediate wall 140 must be removed from the vagina as a whole. Accordingly, the internal portions 100 and 120 apparently are the internal components, but are not used for supporting the vagina like the components of the present invention.

With regard to the amended claim 1, it is recited that the vaginal mold includes the main body and the minor part "support said vagina", "are detachable from each other in said vagina" and "are independently removable from said vagina", which is totally different from Reinbolt's exercise device. Moreover, as cited in Reinbolt, the internal portions 100 and 120 must be connected and partitioned by the intermediate wall 140, whereas the main body and minor part of the present invention are easily connected by a jointing structure of at least one of the main body and the minor part, and the main body and minor part would not be partitioned off by a "wall". In addition, any kind of pressure is unnecessary for the present vaginal mold to achieve the function of supporting the vagina. Accordingly, presently amended claim 1 is novel and not anticipated by Reinbolt.

Based on the above-mentioned illustrations, it would also be impossible for one of ordinary skill in the art to conceive the idea of directly positioning "the internal portions 100 and 120" of member 50 of Reinbolt into the vagina. Therefore, the vaginal mold detachable in the vagina recited in presently amended claim 1 is also non-obvious over Reinbolt.

As described in Paragraph [0001] of the present specification, the present vaginal mold is used for (the surgery of neovaginal) reconstruction, which is entirely different from the intended use of Reinbolt's exercise device. Moreover, since the main body and the minor part are detachable from each other in the vagina and independently removable from the vagina, the vaginal mold of the present invention could be removed partially for avoiding

the full thickness skin graft (FTSG) from being displaced, peeled, inversed and/or pulled during the removing process (as described in Paragraph [0036] of the present specification).

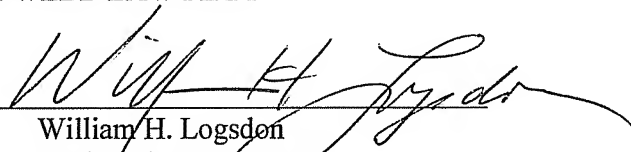
In conclusion, the vaginal mold of amended claim 1 is different from that disclosed in Reinbolt. Moreover, the unique technical features, i.e., "said main body and minor part support said vagina", are "detachable from each other in said vagina", and "independently removable from said vagina" in amended claim 1 are non-obvious and advantageous over Reinbolt for avoiding the FTSG from being displaced, etc. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejections to presently amended claim 1 and its dependent claims 3, 5, 7 and 8 that add further limitations thereto are respectfully requested.

By the same token, currently amended independent claims 9 and 13 cannot be anticipated by Reinbolt. Claims 10-12 and 14-17 are respectively dependent from claims 9 and 13, and add further limitations thereto. As such, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejections to claims 9 and 13 and dependent claims 10-12 and 14-17 are respectfully requested.

Based on at least the foregoing reasons, the claimed invention has distinguishable features not shown, taught, or suggested in the cited art. Therefore, Applicant submits that all of pending claims 1, 3, 5, and 7-21 are now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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